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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/735,400

12/11/2003

W. Daniel Hillis

APPL0030

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GLENN PATENT GROUP
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EXAMINER

SARKHILI, SARA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

03/15/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/735,400

Applicant(s)

HILLIS ET AL.

Examiner

Sara Sarkhili

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12/11/2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Faber et al. (US 4688443)

Faber et al. generally discloses a device with two control members each being operated by a separate person and sending different signals that would be reduced to a single signal by a reduction scheme described in the application.

Regarding Claims 1 and 11:

Faber et al. discloses a device comprising:

- Means for receiving a plurality of control input sets from a corresponding plurality of controllers, each of said control input sets comprising at least one control input; (Abstract)
- Means for reducing said control input sets to at least one reduced control input set according to a reduction scheme (Col. 3 Lines 10-60); and
- Means for providing said at least one reduced control input set to a display console (Col. 4 Lines 3-8 and Col.5 Lines 28-40 and Col. 6 Lines 50-54);

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- Wherein each reduced control input set determines an action of a separate on-screen entity (Col. 6 Lines 50-60); and
- Wherein said controllers collectively control at least one on-screen entity (Col. 7 Lines 41-48).

Regarding Claims 2 and 12:

Faber et al. discloses how the reduction scheme for mapping the control input signals to one signal works (Col. 3 Lines 25-59).

Regarding Claims 3 and 13:

Faber et al. discloses that the mapping for the reduction scheme enables the control device to just accept one final input set and finally be displayed (Col. 3 Lines 25-59 and Col. 6 Lines 50-60).

Regarding Claims 4 and 14:

Faber et al discloses the combination scheme where the result input signal is a combination of two original input signals (Col. 3 Lines 25-59).

Regarding Claims 5 and 15:

Faber et al. discloses the controller, wherein said combination scheme specifies at least one combination procedure applied to at least two of said at least one control input, each of which corresponds across said control input sets; said combination procedure producing a single control input within said at least one reduced control input set (Col. 3 Lines 25-59).

Regarding Claims 6 and 16:

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Faber et al. discloses the controller, wherein said at least one combination procedure is applied to corresponding control input sets in accordance with said reduction scheme (Col. 3 Lines 25-59).

Regarding Claims 7 and 17:

Faber et al. discloses the controller, wherein said at least one combination procedure is based upon any of:

- a vote;
- a selection; and
- an averaging calculation (Col. 3 Lines 25-59).

Regarding Claims 8 and 18:

Faber et al discloses that the controller, wherein said on-screen entity comprises any of:

- a vehicle;
- a character; and
- a team (Col.4 Lines 3-8 and Col.6 Lines 50-60). Faber et al. indicates displaying of a character and the device, which can be a vehicle.

Regarding Claims 9, 10, 19 and 20:

Faber et al. discloses that the reduction scheme is specified by a user of said video game console through a user interface (Col. 3 Lines 25-59 and specifically Col.7 Lines 1-10).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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- Meghnot et al. US 6283757, Cicare et al. US 5678999 that disclose aircraft simulating devices.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sara Sarkhili whose telephone number is 571-272-2831.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571)272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SS



Robert E Pezzullo
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3714